Certified Medical Laboratory Assistant

Information Session

* Note, completing this information session is a pre-requisite for entry into this program. Upon completion, you will be asked to complete a short survey.

Info Session Agenda

1. Territorial acknowledgement
2. Introduction to the career of CMLA
3. Camosun College overview
4. CMLA program overview
5. Admission, financial aid & estimated costs
6. Questions and next steps!

Territorial Acknowledgement

Camosun College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

What is a Certified Medical Laboratory Assistant?

- A Certified Medical Laboratory Assistant (CMLA) is responsible for pre-analytical techniques such as patient blood collection, sample collection, sample preparation, and ECG collection.
- Students learn to incorporate exemplary patient and client-centric behaviors while also learning to collect and process data required for diagnostic investigations
- The CMLA program prepares graduates for their role as integral members of the healthcare team by providing a broad foundation in laboratory science theory integrated with authentic simulation environments and workplace clinical practicums.

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What are Pre-Analytical Techniques?

- The pre-analytical (before analysis) phase of laboratory medicine includes test selection, patient identification, sample collection, handling and preparation
- CMLAs are responsible for performing phlebotomy, which is the practice of collecting blood samples for an analytical purpose
- Sample collection also includes identifying patients, outlining testing requirements, giving patient instructions and maintaining sample integrity during collection
- Sample preparation involves the handling and processing of the sample in such a way to ensure quality results for the patient

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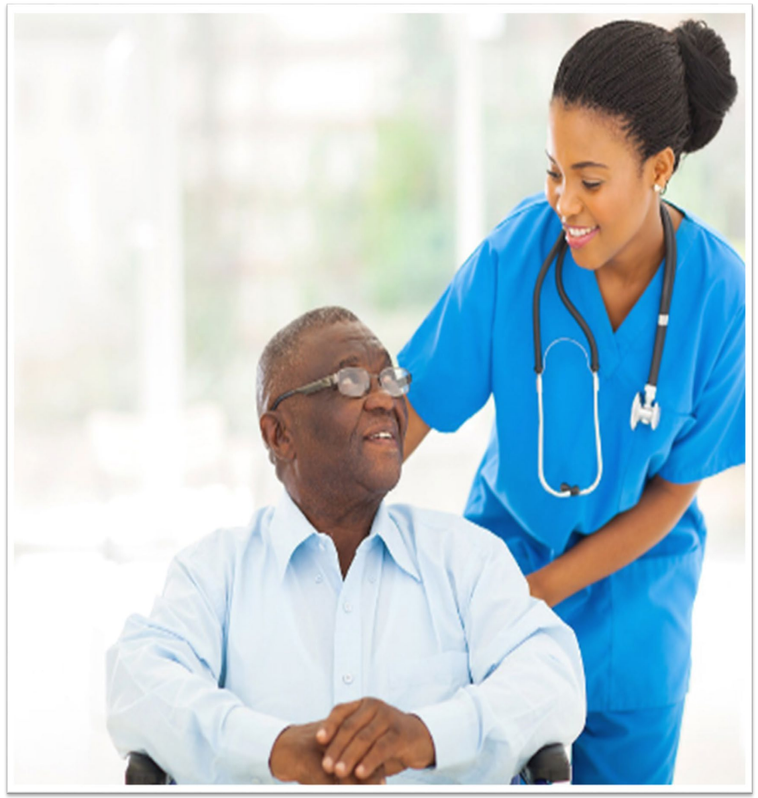
Main Roles of a CMLA

Part of a team that is essential to patient care!



Patients

Medical Lab Technologists

Physicians

Nurses

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Main Roles of a CMLA

- Conduct a variety of sample collections and patient based procedures
- Provide patient instructions for the purpose of quality sample collections
- Understand and follow safety guidelines
- Think critically to problem solve and make decisions
- Work independently or with minimal supervision and work as part of a team
- Manage multiple priorities and projects
- Display flexibility in a fast-paced work environment
- Maintain the strictest levels of confidentiality
- Pursue professional development for the continual improvement of patient care

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Other Roles of a CMLA

CMLAs participate in a variety of roles beyond specimen collection.

- Patient data entry of diagnoses, patient histories, and medications
- Cardiac monitoring tests (ECG testing, Holter monitor application)
- Assisting Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLTs) in a variety of departments
  - Hematology – blood counts, coagulation
  - Chemistry – hormones, electrolytes, cardiac markers
  - Microbiology – bacterial, viral, fungal infections
  - Histology – analysis of tissues
  - Transfusion Services – blood bank

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Competency Profile of a CMLA

CSMLS SCSLM

Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science
Société canadienne de science de laboratoire médical

Click on the images to explore the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science and the BC Society of Laboratory Science websites to review the competency profiles!

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About Camosun College

Camosun College

- The largest public college in BC
- Over 19,000 students
- Over 1200 faculty and staff
- Programs range from arts to business to tech and trades to university transfer and continuing education
- Credentials include dual credits, certificates, diplomas, degrees, and post degree diplomas

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View the Dean's Welcome and the School of Health & Human Services (HHS) Student Handbook online

Carly Hall, RN, BSN, MEd
Dean, School of Health and Human Services

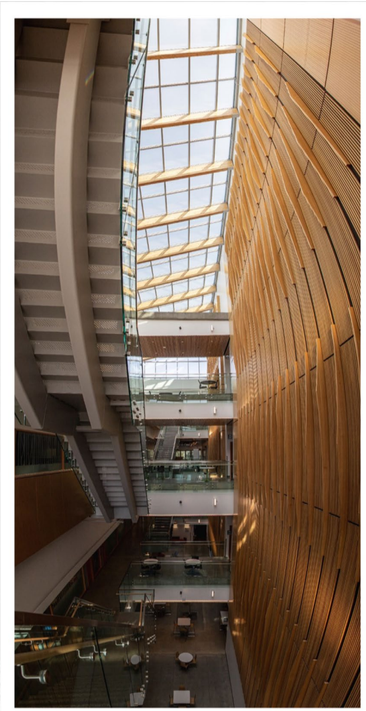
Camosun College offers more than 15 health and human services programs!

The School of HHS is a place of warmth and caring.

Our goal is to educate and support "**flourishing individuals, families and communities**".

Alex and Jo Campbell Centre for Health and Wellness (CHW)pb

- 89,000 sq. ft. facility at the Interurban campus with over 800 students
- All HHS programs (except dental) are delivered at the CHW
- Brings together HHS Programs and allows a more interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning
- Provides twenty-first century learning environments including modern classrooms designed to foster active learning, hands-on labs, high technology simulation environments, and lots of collaboration spaces



Student Services at Camosun

Admissions & Recruitment
The right start at Camosun

The Writing Centres
How can we help?

Centre for Accessible Learning
Supporting your learning experience

Academic Advising
Guiding you on your educational journey

Academic Upgrading
Whatever your need, we have an option for you

Indigenous Student Support
Find your way and feel like you belong – with our help

Fitness & Recreation
Make time for your well-being

Financial Aid & Awards
Funding your education

Counselling Centre
Supporting you through life's challenges

CAMOSUN COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY
STANDING UP FOR STUDENT RIGHTS SINCE 1990

Child Care Services
Programs for Infants, Toddlers & Preschoolers

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Indigenous Support Coordinator

- Artemis Fire is Red River Métis and is grateful to be a visitor on the unsurrendered territories of the lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples
- Artemis is passionate about walking with people on their journeys.
- As the Health and Human Services Indigenous Support Coordinator, Artemis supports students in various ways, including assisting applicants to confirm their Indigenous identity.
- Contact Artemis at firea@camosun.ca

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The CMLA program at Camosun College

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Accreditation

The CMLA program is recognized by BCSLS and has achieved national accreditation through Accreditation Canada.

Graduates of our CMLA program will be eligible to write the national CSMLS certification examinations.

CMLA: an Allied Health Department Program

Who are our learners in the Allied Health programs?

- Ages range from 17 – 55+ *(first & changing career students)*
- 70-83% female
- 17-30% male
- 7-19% declared Indigenous students
  (Please meet with an Indigenous Advisor to coordinate with your Academic Advisor and your Applications Advisor)
- 7-19% students supported by the Centre for Accessible Learning
  (Please Register Early!)
- Historically high graduation & employment rates

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Attributes That Contribute to Success

- The ability to meet the physical demands outlined in the Physical Requirements Form, including manual dexterity and fine motor skills
- Competence in written and oral English
- Fluent computer skills and reliable access to a computer with a camera and internet
- Ability to manage time commitment to school and study
- Financial security – not having to work during the program is a plus
- Learn more about the profession; read about and talk to people who are laboratory professionals
- Enhanced anatomy knowledge

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The CMLA Program at Camosun College

- Intense 10 months of study over 3 terms
- 2 academic terms followed by up to 7 weeks of full time, unpaid practicum
- Combination of classroom and laboratory experiences, including student to student phlebotomy
- In addition to using simulators, students act as surrogate patients to learn positioning techniques as well as interpersonal skills
- Flexible, blended delivery model for greater work/life balance

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The CMLA Program Map

Term One

Course	Course Name
AHLT 104	Professional Communication for Allied Health
AHLT 112	Patient Management for Allied Health
IST 120*	Introduction to Indigenous Peoples
MLAB 117	Medical Laboratory Procedures 1
MLAB 121	Laboratory & Phlebotomy Skills 1
MLAB 139	Pre-Analytics & Laboratory Principles

Term Two

AHLT 134	Legal & Professional Ethics in Allied Health
HLSC 264	Interprofessional Practices
MIDS 167	Basic Electrocardiography
MLAB 147	Medical Laboratory Procedures 2
MLAB 151	Laboratory & Phlebotomy Skills 2
MLAB 173	Laboratory Pathophysiology

Term Three

PRAC 180	CMLA Clinical Practicum

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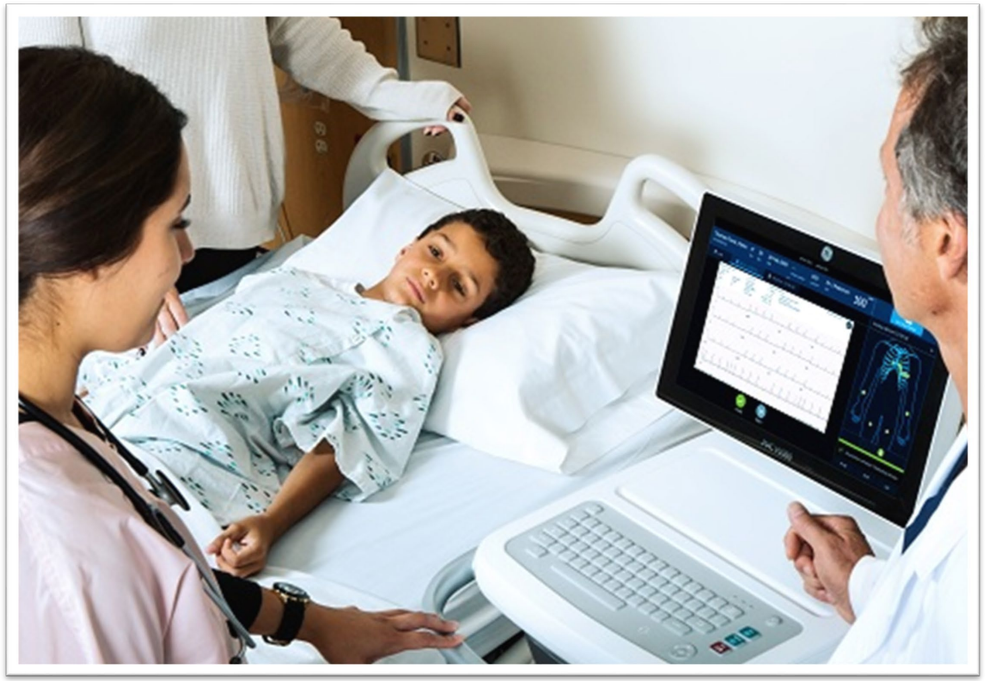
Our Cardiac Equipment



State-of-the-art GE MAC VU360 ECG Carts

SEER 1000 Holter Monitors

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Clinical Experience

- Clinical placements will be at a variety of sites on Vancouver Island
- Students participate in one of two different clinical experiences, depending on placement availability
  - Island Health Authority
  - LifeLabs
- While we do ask students for their preference of site, there is no guarantee that students will receive their preferred site placements
- Keep in mind that students are responsible for providing their own transportation and accommodations while on their clinical placement

Visit the HHS Student Info site for details on Practicum Information and Immunizations

Post Graduation

- Qualified to write the national certification with CSMLS
- With CSMLS certification, eligible to work in all provinces (except Quebec)
- Employment opportunities in BC: Island Health, LifeLabs, CBS and more
- Most CMLAs entering practice find immediate casual work. Casual may mean close to full time hours. Full time positions are usually filled by the casual workforce
- WorkBC rates this as a High opportunity occupation

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Admission, Financial Aid & Estimated Costs

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The Admissions Process

- Apply as soon as possible for first-qualified, first-served admission.
- Submit proof of all admission requirements in order to be added to the program list.

Next intake date to be announced!

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Educational Admission Requirements

- Grade 12 Graduation *
- English 12 (C+)*
- Anatomy and Physiology 12 (C)*
- Medical Terminology (C+)*

** Equivalent or higher; for a full list of acceptable admission requirements please visit our website or contact an Admissions Advisor at the College.*

*** Students may be able to use alternative or ongoing credit in certain requirements.*

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Additional Admission Requirements

Required for your online application:

- A completed Physical Requirements Form (this can be filled out online)
- 40 wpm keyboarding (Ratatype.com)
- Attend a CMLA information session & complete online questionnaire. Be sure you do the survey!
- 40 hours of volunteer work in a patient related environment (interactive role) e.g. Long-term care - requires letter from supervisor confirming 40 hours and responsibilities performed – *some health care professionals can use prior work experience.*

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Program Participation Requirements

DO NOT begin these before being offered a seat!

- Students will be required to do a Criminal Record Check (CRC). Camosun will provide details prior to clinical work starting. Previous CRCs will not be accepted for this purpose.
- Students must have yearly N95 respirator mask ‘fit-testing’ done.
- Students must have completed and be current in Standard First Aid CPR Level C or Basic Life Saving prior to practicum.

Students will be responsible for the costs of these requirements.

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Program Participation Requirements

Tuberculosis Testing

- Students must provide evidence that they do not have ***active*** TB
- Acceptable evidence is a negative TB skin test, a negative chest x-ray, or blood test dated no more than 6 months before practicum

Previously having had TB or a previous positive skin test does not automatically exclude a student from participation.

Students are responsible for the cost of testing.

Immunizations

- Students must provide evidence of immunizations or immunity to preventable, communicable diseases
- Students are highly recommended to maintain current immunizations as per the Practice Education Guidelines of BC

Failure to comply with guidelines could result in the health care organization or the College barring the individual from the practicum setting until proof of immunity is provided and/or a communicable disease outbreak is declared over. This could impact a student's ability to complete the practicum rotation.

Financial Aid

Apply to StudentAid BC for BC and Canada student loans & grants

- Each year is broken into 2 terms with applications for each

Bursaries and Scholarships offered through Financial Aid

- http://camosun.ca/services/financial-aid/

Application Deadlines

- Beginning of October for fall semester
- Beginning of February for winter semester

Student Awards

- $500 Allied Health & Technologies Student Award (one per program per year)
- Non-academic criteria, faculty nominations

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Estimated CMLA Program Costs

- Tuition (Domestic) $15,123
- Tuition (International) $20,770
- Application Fees $41.82
- Text Books $500-700
- Expendable Supplies $100-300
  Paper, binders, pens, photocopying, discs, printer cartridges etc.
- Name Tag, Uniforms & Shoes $200-400
  (Students must purchase uniforms at Camosun College Bookstore)
- Certification/Professional Fees (BCSLS membership) $85
- Certification/Professional Fees (CSMLS National Certification Exam) $190-390
- Program Requirements $150-300
  (Criminal Record Check, TB test, Mask Fit Testing, Immunizations, etc.)

This total ***does not*** include parking, travel costs, relocating, or living accommodations while at school OR practicum.

IMPORTANT: Costs shown above are estimated only and tuition estimates may not reflect up-to-date tuition costing. Students are encouraged to visit the program website for current tuition costing information

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Special Financial Incentive

Domestic students:

Currently, there is special government funding available that will cut the tuition by $10,000!

On top of that, an additional $2000 bursary will be applied!

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Next Steps

Questions?

If you have any additional questions about the program, please don't hesitate to contact us!

CMLA Fall and Winter Program Lead
Alex Purdy
purdya@camosun.ca

CMLA Summer Program Lead
Tania Pozney
pozneyt@camosun.ca

Admissions Advisor
Megan Hale
HaleM@camosun.ca

Financial Aid
financialaid@camosun.ca

Helpful Websites

- CMLA program pages
- Course outlines
- CMLA Student Handbook
- https://camosun.ca/about/covid-19-updates

- Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science
- National certifying body for MLTs and MLAs

- BC Society for Laboratory Sciences
- Competency Profiles, Code of Professional Conduct and Provincial information

- WorkBC, Medical laboratory assistants (NOC 3212)
- High opportunity occupation

Completing this info session is a pre-requisite for entry into the program. Please complete the following short survey with your information to ensure we receive a record of your attendance.

Click here to complete the survey, or scan the QR Code

Thank you. We look forward to seeing you soon!

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